

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JUNE 1, 2015
TOWN HALL
7:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Nadine A. Hawver, Chairman
David A. Smith, Jr., Clerk
Andrew G. Petersen

Others Present: Rhonda LaBombard, Town Administrator
Alicia Dulin, Assistant to Town Administrator

Members of the public

Chairman Hawver opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Selectman Smith moved to approve the meeting minutes from the May 18, 2015 working meeting as presented, seconded by Selectman Petersen. The motion carried unanimously.

FY2016 APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Administrator LaBombard read the following list of appointment announcements and stated that appointments would be made at the next meeting:

Animal Control Officer ó Martin Clark

Animal Inspector ó Martin Clark

Ashley Falls Historic District Commission - Richard Cherneff

Principal Assessor ó Tammy Blackwell

Board of Health ó David Smith Jr.

BRPC Alternate ó Rene Wood

Constable ó James McGarry, Bruce Person

Council on Aging ó Richard Magenis, Dorris VanDeusen, John Gilligan

Cultural Council ó Katherine Ness

Commission on Disabilities ó Lakhan Verma

Electrical Inspector ó Richard Cappadona

Assistant Electrical Inspector ó Butch Ray

Emergency Management Coordinator ó Edward McCormack

Fire Chief ó Brent Getchell

Gas and Piping Inspector ó Robert Krupski

Assistant Gas and Piping Inspector ó Robert Gennari

Health Agent ó Scott Krzanik

Health Inspector ó Sally Munson

Historical Commission ó Catherine Miller, H. Dennis Sears

Parking Clerk ó Felecie Joyce

Plumbing Inspector ó Robert Krupski

Assistant Plumbing Inspector ó Robert Gennari

Full Time Police Officer ó Brian Fahey, Jacob Gonska, Susan Rathbun, Brennan Polidoro
Reserve Intermittent Police Officer ó Tricia Zucco, Michael Ovitt
Recycling Coordinator ó David Steindler
Sanitation Inspector ó Scott Smith
Town Clerk ó Felecie Joyce
Assistant Town Clerk ó Jill Hughes
Town Counsel ó Kopelman and Paige
Town Counsel ó Special - Mirick O'Connell
Tree Warden ó Edward Lord
Veteran's Agent ó Laurie Hils
Veteran's Grave Officer ó Sheffield American Legion
Zoning Board of Appeals ó Stephen Leining

EXTENSION OF CET AGREEMENT:

Administrator LaBombard explained that the Town has an agreement with multiple towns to provide disposal of hazardous waste materials through Southern Berkshire Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program. She stated that the Steering Committee has extended its service agreement with The Center for EcoTechnology, Inc (CET) to administer this program and a contract extension must be signed. The estimated cost for the Town for FY2016 will be \$2,438. Selectman Smith moved to sign the contract extension for the Southern Berkshire Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program, seconded by Selectman Petersen. The motion carried unanimously.

CURB CUT PERMIT APPLICATION – SHEFFIELD BUSINESS PARK:

Administrator LaBombard stated that MBR Holdings, LLC has submitted a curb cut permit application for 87 Sheffield Business Park. She stated that both the Highway Superintendent and the Police Chief have signed the application. Selectman Smith moved to approve the curb cut permit application as presented, seconded by Selectman Petersen. The motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL SESSION FOR SENIOR TAX WORK-OFF PROGRAM:

Administrator LaBombard stated that an information session for the Senior Tax Work-off Program will be held at the Town Hall on June 29, 2015 at 6:00 PM. She stated that the draft Senior Tax Work-off Program will be put on the Town website.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

Chairman Hawver read the following statement:

At our May 18th meeting, under the public comment period of our agenda, a resident made statements accusing the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee of holding a meeting without posting. This was a surprise to the Board because there was not a meeting on May 5th. Two members of the Board of Selectmen were in Town Hall on that date, but did not conduct Town business with each other. We are very respectful of the Open Meeting Law and are particularly careful with any contact that could be perceived as inappropriate.

This resident also requested that all board members whether they are elected or appointed refrain from discussing town business in Town Hall. Members of the BOS meet throughout the week with our Town Administrator to stay apprised of town business. The Board needs to

keep current on the mountains of mail that comes into the Selectmen's office. There are also many documents that need to be signed, such as Chapter 90 Funds, payroll and vendor warrants, as well as correspondence from the Board. It is our job as your Selectmen to be available 24/7 for whatever the needs the community may have. Town Hall is our office and as such town business will be discussed when we are in the building. Often members of the Board will have the need to speak with other staff members as well.

Often times several officials are in Town Hall at the same time which could lead to the perception that there could be a meeting. We are always mindful of perception or appearance issues, but sometimes they cannot be helped.

Many times members of the Board will attend Planning Board, Conservation Commission, School Committee, etc. meetings. This does not violate the Open Meeting Law. It makes us aware of knowing what is going on in our Town.

I am reading this statement because to allow this perception to continue would be a mistake. These accusations were unfounded and not backed up with any specifics. Insinuations of this type are exactly what have caused this community to become divided in the past. If a concern such as this is brought forward in the future, we will ask for the specifics details such as who, when, where and what was discussed. The Board encourages any and all to come before us with questions and suggestions for positive forward movement for the entire community. If your goal, as our speaker on the 18th said, is to stir up a hornets nest perhaps it is best if you ask yourself if what you are bringing before the board is for the good of community. What we need to avoid are false innuendos and accusations which do indeed stir up a hornet's nest.

There are specific steps that can be taken if you have a legitimate concern of an Open Meeting Law violation. The Attorney General's office has complaint forms that should be filled out and filed.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS:

Administrator LaBombard thanked residents for continuing to recycle. She stated that the Town has received a rebate in the amount of \$2,640.37 from the Springfield MRF.

Administrator LaBombard thanked Donald Ward for planting flowers in the pots in front of Town Hall.

Administrator LaBombard stated that Principal Assessor, Tammy Blackwell has received her recertification. She also stated that the new Assessor, Matthew Emprimo has completed all of the required courses.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

James Larkin thanked the Highway Department for fixing the road that he brought to the Board's attention at a previous meeting. He also stated that there is a hole in the bridge off of Egremont Road that needs some attention.

Dennis Sears stated that item number 4 on the agenda was skipped.

ASSISTANT RECYCLING COORDINATOR POSITION:

Administrator LaBombard explained that the Recycling Coordinator has asked that an Assistant Recycling Coordinator position be created, to work with him in case he does not seek reappointment next year. Selectman Smith moved to create the Assistant Recycling Coordinator position and asked that anyone interested submit a letter to the Board, seconded by Selectman Petersen. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Selectman Petersen. The motion carried unanimously

Chairman Hawver adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Alicia Dulin
Assistant to Town Administrator

Documents reviewed at this meeting:
FY2016 Appointment Announcements
CET Contract Extension
Curb Cut Permit Application of Sheffield Business Park